

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

August 3, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on July 22, 2004, **JOHN K. McCUAN**, age 42, of Carrier Mills, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois, in a one-count indictment, charging him with possession of a firearm by a felon. The violation took place on June 29, 2004, in Williamson County. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury. McCUAN is being held without bond pending his September 27, 2004, jury trial.

The firearm charge carries a penalty of not more than 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of 3 years' supervised release.

Information for the indictment was obtained through the cooperative effort of the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.